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LEVAN DADIANI

BACKGROUND

Levan Dadiani was born in Kutais, Georgia on May 1, 1897, a member of the ruling family of the Georgian province of Mingrelia, which was one of the five Georgian kingdoms. His father was His Serene Highness Prince Gregori Dadiani, who died in 1913, and was the reigning head of Mingrelia. His mother, Princess Olga, after his father's death, became a nun in the Russian Orthodox Church and died in 1932. His grandfather was Constantine Dadiani, Lieutenant General, serving under Alexander III. His great grandfather signed the original pact with Czar Alexander I in 1804 providing for Mingrelia becoming a protectorate of Russia. There were nine children in the Dadiani family and they are listed as follows:

Gregor - who assumed his father's title following his death in 1913. Gregor was shot by the Soviets in 1924.

Maria - She married the Hon. Lord, British Military Attache to Turkey and later employed by Vickers.

Nina Kasbek - She is presently in Munich, Germany, living with her daughter, Mrs. George Longfield. Marina, the daughter of Nina Kasbek, was formerly married to Von Holtke, who was killed during the Hitler campaign.

Kittevan - deceased.

Constantina - presently in Georgia; whereabouts and welfare unknown; has two sons and one daughter.

Chalvah - was killed by the Communists in Moscow in 1927.

David - died in 1930 in Georgia.

Tamara - if she is alive, she is with her husband in Siberia, as they were both sent there by the Soviets.

Levan

Levan Dadiani lived in the small Georgian province of Mingrelia, which is located on the Black Sea in the vicinity of the Port of Poti, until he was seventeen years of age. Then he volunteered for service in the Georgian Socialist Republic Army, where he served as an enlisted man, a sergeant and finally as a lieutenant in 1916 in the 6th Caucasian Regiment. He served in this

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army until 1917, at which time he returned to the Province of Mingrelia, and in 1918 Georgia declared its independence from Russia and he took active part in the new government. On May 26, 1919 he was appointed guard to Noe Jordania, President of the Georgian Socialist Republic. He served in this capacity for three months and then returned to service in the Georgian Army as a cavalry officer.

In February, 1921, the Soviet Army entered Georgia, subjecting those peoples to the Soviet rule and dissolved the Georgian Socialist Republic Army. They kept this Army intact for approximately three months and then began purging its members.

Word came to Dadiani that he was to be liquidated and he escaped into the mountains where he actively engaged in a resistance movement, which was led by Colonel K. Tcholokashvili. The members of this resistance movement lived a very rugged and primitive existence in the mountains and forests combating the Soviets as guerrilla fighters until 1924, when they led an uprising against the Soviets in Georgia and on August 23, 1924 succeeded in gaining control of all Georgia with the exception of Tiflis. They maintained this control for a period of three days and then they were overpowered by the Soviets, largely because they failed to capture Tiflis, a communication center. What was left of the Georgian Government then escaped to Turkey by a British war ship.

However, Dadiani remained in Georgia in hiding until December, 1924, at which time he made his way to the Turkish border through the assistance of friends who had set up an underground railway similar to that utilized during the Civil War to transport slaves from the South to the North. He was also assisted in his escape by Kurd tribesmen who specialized in smuggling. He remained in Constantinople (Istanbul) for approximately one week. Then he secured a transit visa to France. At this time France was granting visas to all Georgian refugees, providing they signed a work contract.

Levan Dadiani disembarked at Marseilles, France, in the early part of 1925 and commenced work as a mechanic in various automobile factories in the vicinity of Odincourt, Pontarlier and Paris. He worked in these factories from 1925 until 1928 and he associated with a Georgian colony of refugees.

In 1927 he spent a short time in England visiting his sister, Maria Court, who is suffering from temporary insanity. In 1929 he made the acquaintance of an American couple in Paris, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Aronstein. Mrs. Aronstein became infatuated with Dadiani and he resided with them from 1929 until 1935, spending part of his time in Paris and part in New York. Apparently, during this period he was not employed.

In September, 1935, he entered the Port of New York from Cherbourg on the Bremen. He worked as a mechanic in a garage in this city for a short

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period of time. Later in 1935, he obtained a position with the family of Harold Hothchild in New York as a groom and horse trainer. He apparently was a very proficient horseman and rode in a number of horse shows in New York.

In 1937, he met, through the Hothchilds, Marion Levinstein and married her. This marriage lasted one week and he obtained a divorce because she suffered from periodic attacks of insanity, which he had no knowledge of prior to the marriage.

In February, 1938, he met Mrs. Philip Flint, nee Edna Carlton, and following her divorce from Philip Flint, they were married on December 22, 1938. Edna Carlton is the present Princess Ladiani and she was born in Boston, Massachusetts on August 4, 1879.

On January 1, 1939 the Ladianis left for France where Edna Ladiani stayed until the declaration of war in September, 1939, after which she returned to New York. Ladiani remained in Paris and attempted to volunteer for the French Army as a cavalry officer. However, at that time they wanted only French citizens and turned him down, so he returned to New York City in October, 1939. They took up residence at 11 East 11th Street, New York, New York, until 1940 when they purchased Satheno Farm, Thompson Ridge, New York.

Ladiani states that he obtained United States citizenship on June 15, 1945 at Oshon, New York. In 1942, he was operated on for cancer of the throat. He apparently has recovered from this operation but has a speech impediment which would properly be described as laryngitis. They actively farmed during the war period but because of the difficulty of obtaining labor, they are presently not farming any of their land. They could be described as gentleman farmers. Ladiani states that he is proficient in foreign languages, speaking French, some Turkish, Georgian, Mingrelian dialect and Abkhazian dialect.

PROPOSED PLANS OF LADIANI FOR ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA

Levan Ladiani has an extensive knowledge of the terrain and topography of the Georgian Kingdom, particularly the Provinces of Mingrelia and Abkhazia, which knowledge could be used to advantage by topographers. He also has in mind the organization of a resistance movement which would engage in propaganda, espionage and sabotage under the direction of the United States. He has no knowledge of such a movement at the present time in Georgia, but believes from his knowledge of the Georgian people, their strong nationalistic temperament and their antipathy to Communism, that such a movement or an espionage organization could be established with their assistance.

It is the proposal of Levan Ladiani that he be sent to Turkey with a representative of the United States to direct his activities, and that they be

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provided with a satisfactory cover. He also suggested that he could go to France or the American zone in Austria, where he could place appropriate officials of the United States in touch with sources of information and informants.

Working with him, he suggested one Michael Dadiani, a half-brother of George and Simon Dadiani, the latter who are distantly related to Levan Dadiani, and he has stated that George is very anti-Communist and a strong Georgian national. Simon is presently a student in an architectural school at Keon, Pennsylvania, under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

MICHAEL DADIANI

Michael Dadiani was born in Georgia and served with Levan Dadiani in the old Georgian Socialist Republic Army. He also attended the military school of the Georgian Army which was similar to our West Point. Following the overthrow of the Georgian Army, Michael went to Poland where he attended the Polish Military School and after his graduation, he became an officer in the Second Uhland Regiment of the Polish Army. In 1930, he left Poland and went to Paris where he worked as a horseman. In 1941, when the Germans occupied Paris, they registered all refugees. Michael was registered as a Georgian anti-Communist refugee and he was given an opportunity to go into the Georgian Battalion of the German Army and fight the Russians, or be confined to an internment camp. He joined the Georgian Battalion and fought the Soviets until the German Army retreated, at which time his battalion retreated into Italy where they were supposed to fight the United States troops, but they refused and his battalion surrendered to the American forces and he was placed in a British concentration camp in Italy.

Michael Dadiani had in his Georgian Battalion a number of younger Georgians who were anti-Communist and whose families and friends still reside in Georgia. Through Michael's knowledge of these families and the members of the battalion, Levan proposes to obtain a lead as to those individuals who would be susceptible to approach for the purpose of engaging in espionage and related matters.

ALEXANDER SOULKANICHVILI

Alexander Soulikanichvili resides at 35 Rue Franklin, Paris, France, and is a very close friend of Levan. At the present time he is visiting the Dadianis. He is a Georgian who also fought in the Georgian Socialist Republic Army and Levan feels he would be useful in contacting individuals in Georgia and working with him in this so-called resistance movement he proposes.

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OTHER ASSISTANTS IN RESIDENCE OF LEVAN DADIANI

Levan Dadiani believes that he could utilize some of the Kurd tribesmen to smuggle either Michael Dadiani, Alexander Soukhanichvili or himself into Georgia to make some of these initial contacts and then that they could establish a courier system. They probably could enter Georgia in the vicinity of Oti where he believes the Kurd tribesmen are still actively engaged in smuggling.

Levan Dadiani stated that he has heard by rumor that there is a Georgian named David Erconachvili, who is presently in Constantinople (Istanbul), exact address unknown to Levan. David Erconachvili also was in the Georgian Socialist Republic Army and was friendly with Levan in Paris during the time he worked there in the automobile factories. He said that he has heard that David Erconachvili had been in Georgia several times during the present war where he has been in touch with some of the old, reliable Georgian families. If possible, Levan would also attempt to utilize David Erconachvili in this plan. He described David as approximately fifty years of age; very thin; height, 5'7"; hair, blonde, used to wear a mustache, blonde, very wiry and athletic.

Levan Dadiani stated that David Erconachvili, Alexander Soukhanichvili and Michael Dadiani are all thoroughly familiar with that area of Georgia on the Black Sea and particularly the mountainous country and he believes that they could set up an operating, successful espionage system.

Levan Dadiani has advised that he knows a syndicate was mined in the vicinity of Tiflis at the town of Chistara, and he has read in the public press that there is an atomic bomb plant in the vicinity of Sukhum Kale, which is located on the Black Sea in the Province of Abkhazia. If some type of resistance or infiltration movement could be set up, Dadiani feels that information concerning the operation of an atomic plant could be ascertained.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL TSEMETELLI

According to Prince Dadiani, Professor Michael Tsemetelli, an elderly man and a scholar, supplied arms to the Georgians during the last revolution and would be happy to be of assistance. Tsemetelli can be contacted through Dadiani, and it is believed that the Professor is now in Munich, Germany.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL ACHMETELLI

This individual, according to Dadiani, is trustworthy, strongly opposed to Communism, and can also be contacted through Dadiani. Achmetelli is believed to be in Munich, Germany.

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DAVID VATCHNADZE

This individual, according to Dadiani, is a man of good character, and originally an officer in the Russian and Soviet Armies. His address is:

Prince David Vatchnadze
Georgenstrasse 30
Bayeron
Munich, Germany
U. S. Zone

J. NANUASWILI

According to Mrs. Dadiani, Nanuashvili can be reached at the Hodgesmoor Hotel, near Amersham Bucks, England, and if not there, in care of G. Dzavachishvili, 20 Grange Road, London, E.C.4. Nanuashvili is a Georgian who was a Captain in the Polish Army prior to the time the Communists gained control. Certain material transmitted by Nanuashvili to the Dadianis is described as follows, and is attached herewith:

1. Notes regarding the Strategic Importance of the Caucasus.
2. Georgia. Georgia's Past and her Hopes for the Future.
3. The Strength and Weakness of Russia, by V. Nanuashvili.
4. A document entitled "The Adventurist's Operational Possibilities", and five maps to be used as reference material in connection with the document.
5. A document entitled "Gruzja I Kavkaz. W. Budchodzacej Wojnie", which translates from Polish as "Georgia and the Caucasus in the Coming War". This document deals with the aims and plans of an anti-Communist Georgian organization in London, England, whose prime purpose is to liberate Georgia in the event of war with Russia. This anti-Communist organization of Georgians allegedly has been formed with a central office in London, and consists of Georgians who were formerly Army Officers in the Polish Army. They believe that war between the United States and Russia is inevitable and that the members of this organization would be in the best position to organize our underground in the Georgian Soviet Republic, against Russia. According to Captain Dadiani, the following individuals are officers of this organization, of which he is also a member:

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President - Comandor Tomida, first name unknown, a former officer in the pre-war Polish Navy and at the present time an officer in the British Navy.

Secretary - John Narmastwili, who is the actual director and planner of the organization and is the person to contact for any additional information.

Financial Secretary - Captain Dzakhishvili.
First name unknown.

According to Captain Michael Dadiani, the organization also has a branch in Paris, France.

In addition to the aforementioned material, Captain Michael Dadiani also furnished a document written by Narmastwili about a year ago, entitled "Teheran-Yalta", which is written in Polish and is an evaluation of conditions resulting from the Teheran and Yalta Conferences. This document is also attached.

In connection with Narmastwili who has provided all of the aforementioned material, and who is in England, the Dadianis advise that he does not speak English very well but is fluent in Polish, Russian and French. Narmastwili definitely stipulated that he did not want to be contacted through official English channels.

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